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LONDON LETTER

By "The Londoner"



King George V's Tomb in
Saint George's Chapel,
Windsor.

King George V's Tomb.

The King and Queen, Queen Mary, the Dukes and Duchesses of Gloucester and Kent, and the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose were present at the dedication of the late King's tomb in Saint George's Chapel, Windsor.

After the simple service, the tomb was on view to the public. It will always remain so, for it is in the nave of the Chapel, not with other royal tombs in the chancel, which is occasionally closed.

The tomb has been designed by the President of the Royal Academy, Sir Edwin Lutyens, and it is surmounted by a recumbent figure of King George V in white marble by Sir William Reid Dick. On the side of the tomb appear, as well as the Royal Arms, the Arms of the Dominions of the British Empire of which George V was King.

The bodies of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra lie in the same vault as the late King's body. Also interred in this beautiful Chapel are King Henry VIII and his third wife, Jane Seymour, while together in another vault lie three Hanoverian Kings — George III and his two sons, George IV and William IV. Here, too, lie the body and severed head of King Charles I.

The King's Ship on Show.

With the approval of the King and the permission of the Admiralty, the British public is to be given an opportunity to visit and inspect a full-sized reproduction of the quarters aboard H. M. S. "Repulse" which the King and Queen will occupy during their voyage to Canada and the United States next May.

This reproduction will be on view at the Ideal Homes Exhibition which opens in London on April 11th — the apartments which the public will be able to inspect minutely will be the King's and Queen's sleeping cabins,

their day cabins, and the Royal Dining Room.

These apartments will be furnished exactly as when their Majesties occupied them. Accurate reproductions of the furnishings and furniture are being made. This includes the twenty-four chairs by the famous 18th century furniture-maker Hepplewhite, upholstered in royal blue hide, taken from the royal yacht and installed in the dining room on the "Repulse."

In the King's day cabin will be seen the writing table at which he will deal with State business during the voyage and on the table will be a telephone communicating with members of his personal staff, with other departments of the ship, and, if need be, by radio link with England.

Paint versus Bomb.

British Industrial chemists have manufactured an anti-bomb paint from plastic materials. The householder has only to apply this paint to the interior woodwork in his loft or attic to ensure a large measure of protection against the effect of incendiary bombs.

Last week a party of municipal officials and representatives of fire-fighting services saw a demonstration of the efficiency of this paint in a actual roof space. The explosion of a bomb under the roof let loose an inferno of molten metal at white heat.

For a moment it seemed that the place would be reduced to ashes, but in a short time the flames began to subside, and in a few minutes they were extinguished.

Examination showed that the woodwork was unmarked except for a light blackening round the spot where the bomb had been laid.

The Chemist's Part.

The part played by the British research chemist in developments in all walks of life is increasing almost from day to day.

I hear that one laboratory in the north of England is

The Visit of President Lebrun

The French President and Madame Lebrun received an enthusiastic welcome when they arrived in London for their three days' state visit.

It was not merely the pageantry of the drive to Buckingham Palace and the presence of the King and Queen in the procession which had drawn such large crowds.

Although it was over an hour before the President and Madame Lebrun set out again to visit Queen Mary at Marlborough House, the crowd had thinned very little. The Mall was still packed and there must have been two thousand people on the Victoria memorial.

At all their public appearances, the French visitors were greeted with an equally friendly enthusiasm. Thousands of people waited for hours outside the flood-lit Opera House to watch their arrival for the Gala evening.

A Full Programme.

Nearly all state visits are planned to include a banquet at Buckingham Palace, a reception at the Guildhall, and an evening function at the Foreign Office.

All of these were arranged for the visit of Monsieur and Madame Lebrun, but their very full programme included one or two functions, each of which — though no less formal — carried some particularly happy significance.

Such, for instance, was the French President's visit to the London County Council which has just been celebrating its Jubilee,

experimenting on a fibre made out of monkey nuts.

The development of Velan, an organic process which renders fabric water-repellent, has been encouraged by its application to uniforms for Britain's new armies and also to women's skiing suits.

An amazing plastic reflector has been designed to facilitate night motor-car driving, and work is proceeding on the commercial adaptation of a new entirely new material for sheathing underground or submarine cables.

The L. C. C.'s Woman Chairman.

For the first time in its history a woman has become Chairman of the London County Council ("L. C. C.") which is responsible for the government of the whole of London.

This is Mrs. E. M. Lowe, who has been a member of the L. C. C. for seventeen years, and was deputy-chairman in 1929.

She thus becomes entitled to the prefix "Right Honourable," which is used by Privy Councillors, the chief magistrates of certain large cities in Britain and in the overseas.

Mrs. Lowe was elected, said Mr. Herbert Morrison, leader of the Council, "for her competence, her understanding of the Council's work and her closeness to the life of the people of London."

Lest members of the Council

and reception at the French Institute which Monsieur Lebrun was able to open in person.

The Gala night at the Opera and the Anglo-French entertainment at the India Office, in the preparation of which Sir Robert Vansittart, chief diplomatic adviser of the Government, played such a leading part, gave a happy impression that the King and Queen were as much concerned with the welcoming and entertaining of personal friends as with cementing an old alliance.

The Speeches during the Visit.

In replying to the various addresses of welcome with which he was greeted, Monsieur Lebrun spoke in his own language.

None of his hosts was bold enough to launch out on the difficult seas of French oratory, except the Princess Royal, who showed on Tuesday afternoon at the French Institute, of which she is patroness, that she possessed a quite unusual mastery of French.

Lord Maugham disappointed his audience at Westminster Hall, for after his admirably enunciated "Monsieur le Président," he continued in English, although he is known to be an excellent French speaker.

Monsieur Lebrun's speech at Westminster Hall was a model for the parliamentarians whom he was addressing.

Speaking entirely without notes, he began in clear, level tones, rising in force until his voice rang through the hall with true oratorical power.

should be confused when addressing her, Mrs. Lowe will be addressed as "Mr. Chairman" and "Sir" — for speeches are directed, of course, not at the sex but at the Chair.

Zoo Dictionary.

While the Giant Panda recently acquired by the London Zoo is delighting the children of Britain (of all ages), attention is drawn to the more serious work of the Zoological Society by the forthcoming publication of the first volume of the new International Zoological Dictionary.

This dictionary will contain 225,000 names of animals of all kinds, and which has taken a staff of men, under the direction of Dr. Stephen Neave, four years to complete.

The scheme originated because scientists found it impossible to coin new names for the thousands of new species discovered each year.

It will save scientists the embarrassment of learning that the names chosen for their finds have already been used by someone else.

Of the total number of entries, more than half are names of insects. There are 8,000 different kinds of worms and 10,000 bird names.

AUSTRALIAN LETTER

By Helen Heney

If the Australian population continues to increase at its present rate of 50,000 a year, the total population next year should be 7,000,000. Males exceed females in all but two states, and in the total figures.

The movement towards defence is not losing momentum. Recruiting is being continued vigorously for the militia, and the Federal Treasurer, Mr. Casey, has given a clear hint that the numbers of the standing army will be increased.

Manufacture of ammunition is being speeded up in Victoria, and some of the small arms factories are being held in readiness for production, though the present supply is deemed quite adequate.

National Insurance is still a question of the utmost importance. The scheme as first worked out seems likely to prove too costly in the face of the large increase in defence expenditure which has become necessary since the insurance plan was outlined. If the original plan proves too costly, three alternatives with lower contributions and restricted benefits will then be brought forward, in the hope of saving the treasury upon which a heavy drain will be placed.

The Australian High Commissioner in London, Mr. S. M. Bruce, who is at present in Australia on a visit, has aroused considerable criticism at first by the pessimism of his outlook on European affairs and their probable repercussions in Australia. His recent speeches have been strongly in support of rearmament, and he praises highly the effort undertaken by his countrymen. He says that he is returning to London to explain the Australian point of view there.

The hot weather of this almost unprecedentedly hot summer continues with drought conditions in several of the states. Victoria, which was the severest sufferer in the recent bushfires, is at last having rain, while South Australia still records daily high temperatures, and the drought over the usually well-watered coastal belt of New South Wales continues unbroken.

Other items of interest are the attempts in several states to reduce traffic accidents by stricter regulations and by immediate punishment of Jay walkers, a plan to introduce legislation into the Federal Parliament to confer wider powers on the Federal Arbitration Court, and the new resolution of the Minister for Civil Aviation, who came in for so much hostile criticism on press interviews, so that all questions addressed to him should be in writing, sent in duplicate.

AVIATION NEWS



Latest version of the Bristol Blenheim bomber in service in the Royal Air Force.

METEOROLOGY IN OCEAN AIR TRANSPORT

In all the preparations now being made for operating great trans-ocean airways, none are more interesting — or more technically important — than the collection of that mass of weather news which is incorporated in guiding pilots on non-stop flights extending over thousand of miles.

Just as the sea-captain needs his charts as to conditions prevailing at surface level, so the air captain, when he passes high across the sky, must know the direction and strength of those great aerial "tides" through which his winged ship has to be navigated.

To study the meteorological plans which are now having finishing touches put to them for this summer's North Atlantic airway is to gain a vivid impression of the significance of a highly-organised weather service to any air-line which has to operate to regular time schedules over a wide expanse of ocean.

One of the facts emerging is the widespread nature of the organisation which has been built up, and which is still being perfected in regard to many of its details.

From an immense network of ground-stations messages come flowing in. Aeroplane pilots, climbing to high altitudes, bring

back reports of what is happening, meteorologically, in the upper air. And small piloted balloons, watched through special instruments as they climb skyward, furnish further valuable data.

Then there are all the ships dotted over great oceans which send their messages by wireless, describing the conditions prevailing, at the moment, in their immediate vicinity. In this connection an interesting development is the fitting out of special meteorological ships to be stationed at suitable points on long-distance routes. Such vessels, anchored in mid-ocean, act as floating observatories, distributing their news by wireless not only to shore-stations, but also to any ocean-flying craft that may be in the air.

A vessel of this type is the specially equipped French steamer *Carimare*, which is about to take up a position midway between New York and the Azores, and which a party of British experts, comprising Air Ministry weather officials and Capt. A. S. Wilcockson, O.B.E., Capt. G. I. Thomson and Capt. C. Kelly Rogers, (of Imperial Airways Atlantic Division) went over to France the other day to examine at the invitation of M. Louis Castex, of Air France Transatlantique.

In addition to lying anchored at any specific point, such

which their arms and hands, encased in thick rubber gloves, are thrust through a couple of openings like portholes. From this position they manipulate with forceps a tiny particle of metal, about the size of a pin's head.

Every three months these brave workers have to submit themselves to a blood examination, to make sure that they are suffering from no ill effects due to contact with the radium. A marked alteration in the blood count sometimes shows itself after even as short a period as one month. If this becomes too pronounced, they are transferred at once to some other form of work.

Only five days of seven hours each are worked during the week. Each man gets a minimum of a month's holiday a year.

These extraordinary precautions are prompted by the tragic early years in the history of radium, when one gallant pioneer after another paid the price in the loss of arms, eyes, and even lives.

The radium with which these workers are daily in contact is the most dangerous element known to man.

Radium salts, for instance, can be inhaled in the form of dust. It is then absorbed into the system and is eventually deposited in the bones, where the blood-forming marrow is subjected to an alpha

meteorological ships can undertake observation cruises, accumulating special data as to conditions in any given zone. On great stretches of ocean such as the Pacific, the work of mobile observation-stations, as represented by special weather-ships, will be augmented by the many land-stations which it is proposed to establish on suitable islands.

LINK BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT

Mention of the new "Cabot" class of flying-boat to light an interesting link with Britain's past.

The flying-boat "Cabot" is named after John Cabot, the Anglo-Italian explorer who, in 1497, discovered Canada.

Occupying the throne at that time was King Henry VII — that most "sea-minded" monarch since Canute.

When Cabot returned from his history-making voyage, Henry showered honours and titles upon him, among the latter being that of Hereditary Grand-Pilot of England.

Today his several-times-great-grandson, Frank Cabot, of Croydon, is the present holder of this hereditary title. And he still receives the annual £20 fee that goes with this ancient title of Hereditary Grand-Pilot although it is a title which he never uses; while it appears that he still has the right — which he never exercises — of inspecting all commercial craft sailing from England to foreign ports.

'SICK' TOMATO PLANTS RUSHED TO HOSPITAL BY PLANE

British scientists are attempting to fight a mysterious new tomato plant disease, which has broken out in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and is causing considerable loss.

Living plants affected with the disease were rushed to England by Imperial Airways flying-boat last week-end, and taken to the Plant Virus Research Station at the Cambridge School of Agriculture. It was essential that the plants should be received in a living condition in order that they could be grafted on to healthy tomato plants and so give a supply of virus for study.

The virus disease can probably only be transmitted to other tomato plants by means of a particular insect, and until it is known what that insect is, it is

SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH

Of the many pieces of research conducted under the aegis of the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in recent years, none has greater significance for the general public than the work done on food storage. The problem of the preservation of fruit, in particular homegrown varieties which respond badly to ordinary cold storage, has been solved by the development of gas storage. In principle, the method depends on adjusting the ventilation of cooled stores so that their atmosphere contains just the right amount of carbon dioxide — the gas breathed out by the fruit, in the same way as it is breathed out from our lungs. "Ten years ago," the report states, "there were no gas stores. To-day they provide three million feet of storage, and this is only a beginning. Moreover, the application of the principles to other fruits and vegetables is being explored."

Up to 1933 Australia and New Zealand could only send frozen beef to Britain — an unsatisfactory product — but, as a result of the Department's work, it has been shown that chilled beef can be preserved for sufficiently long periods in special chambers enriched with carbon dioxide gas. This discovery has been rapidly applied commercially and in 1937 Australia and New Zealand sent to Great Britain some three-quarters of a million hundredweights of chilled beef carried in this way. Again, fish, as ordinarily handled and stored in crushed ice, cannot be kept really fresh for more than ten to twelve days. Methods have been developed by which lemon soles, for example, have been stored for two years and were in excellent condition at the end of that period.

necessary to rely on grafting to spread the virus to other plants for purposes of investigation.

The plants were imported under special licence and travelled in soldered and sealed tins under carefully controlled conditions.

A "virus" is an ultramicroscopic disease agent of a kind which causes disease in all types of living things. Influenza, dog-distemper, foot-and-mouth disease, and smallpox are all virus diseases, and agents of a similar kind affect plants.

Besides carrying out its programme of general research, both the Department's own research organisations and the various cooperative research associations answer numerous enquiries from industry every year, and carry out special investigations to solve practical problems of industry. In twelve months, for example, at the National Physical Laboratory 41,500 routine tests on instruments and materials were made. Over the same period upwards of 530,000 clinical thermometers and 20,000 taximeters for cabs were tested. In the next few years standard measuring equipment used by 600 electric supply authorities for testing domestic meters will be sent to the Laboratory for checking.

The following are some further points from the report. It has been found that goods washed and finished in the laundry are much more nearly free from bacteria than goods washed and dried in the home.

New uses for rubber are likely to be found as a result of the development by the Rubber Research Association of a simple process for preparing powdered rubber from plantation sheet or crepe.

The factors which affect the ease of the starting of motor engines from cold are being studied. It has been shown that by minor alterations of engine design the power of the engine to overcome its internal friction can, under certain conditions, be doubled.

Investigations carried out at the National Physical Laboratory into the design of herring drifters have shown that the forms of hull at present in use can be made to give a reduction of some 40 per cent. in power without loss of seaworthiness. The application of this work would mean the saving of hundreds of pounds a year in the fuel costs of a drifter.

At the Fuel Research Station a process is being studied of producing motor spirit by heating the gases produced by passing steam over red-hot coal. In the course of this synthesis a wax is produced from which soap has been made. Water-soothing materials have also been prepared from coal, and the possibilities of using fine coal dust instead of oil in diesel engines are being investigated.

The needles consist of an inner hollow tube or cell in which sodium salt is sealed and an outer hermetically sealed sheath.

The cell usually is made from iridio-platinum, an alloy which is harder than pure platinum and resists wear better. The actual leading is accomplished with the aid of a platinum metal funnel mounted over the open end.

Into this radium mixture is fed from a platinum foil tray in small amounts. It is evenly distributed in the cell by means of a slender piece of wire, an operation that calls for a high degree of skill. The container finally is adjusted to make an impression of itself on a photographic plate by its own radiation. This provides a record of the active life of the needle.

Metals from which radium containers are made are pure gold, carat gold, silver and gold-platinum alloys.

All these intricate operations are carried out by the workers in that Hatton Garden building. Each step is fraught with the same danger of radium poisoning. But the output always has to be kept up, because in hospitals all over the world are patients who will benefit from the advances in the cure of cancer produced by the work of a few stout-hearted "cockneys".

UNKNOWN SOLDIERS OF SCIENCE

BRITISH RADIUM WORKERS AT THEIR DANGEROUS TASK

By Edgar Middleton.

A great new drive against cancer in Britain was recently announced by Mr. Walter Elliott, Minister of Health, in the present British Government.

In an inconspicuous-looking building in Hatton Garden, the diamond dealers' London market, a dozen or so men are engaged on one of the world's most dangerous jobs.

They are just ordinary "cockney" workers, travelling to and from some distant suburbs to the office every day. Probably they would laugh if it was suggested to them that their job was anything out of the ordinary. Yet the conditions governing their means of livelihood are the most stringent known to industry.

These unknown soldiers of science are playing their part in the great new drive against cancer in Britain, which was announced recently by the British Minister of Health, Mr. Walter Elliott.

Their business is to distribute purified radium salt into needles and plaques, or "bombs" as they are popularly known, for medical healing purposes in hospitals.

They sit in front of hermetically sealed, lead-lined cabinets into

ray bombardment from which incurable anaemia results.

It is to guard against this particular danger that the hermetically sealed, lead-lined cabinets are used. Respirators, worn over mouth and nose, are another form of protection.

An equal danger that these soldiers of science have to face is the breathing of radon, the gas that is given off by radium. The breathing of radon in small amounts is not so serious, but minute particles will eventually be left in the lungs.

The effect of radiations on the body, yet another peril that has to be faced, is prevented by wearing rubber gloves. The lead lining of the cabinets is for the same object, which is aided by the use of forceps to prevent the fingers getting into the field of intense radiation.

One of the two chief sources of radium to-day is in the British Dominion of Canada — the shores of the Great Bear Lake, on the Arctic Circle. From the mining camp there to the refining plant at Port Hope, Ontario, is a jump of 3,000 miles.

It used to take the better part of a year to get into this frozen and inhospitable country. Now, from the mine to the plant, by air and rail it takes a mere 3½ days. The aeroplane has made possible

the rapid development of this new mining region.

On the shores of the Great Bear Lake men are busy, winter and summer, taking from the earth tons of rock rich in silver and radium content. Tunnels have been dug in what a few years ago was an isolated wilderness, visited only by a few trappers and Indians.

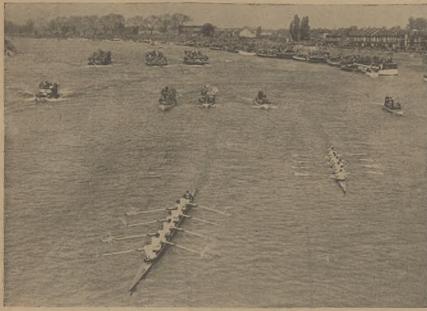
Now there are nine railways, one compressor, work-shops, log cabins, stores, airports and radio stations. Now the lake in summer has the traffic of a variety of boats, while sea-planes land and take off on its sometimes turbulent waters. There, on the shores of the Great Bear Lake, the bags of ore are filled, ready for shipment south. At Port Hope a new method has been developed which cuts the time of extraction from the rough ore to three months.

The purified element in the form of a salt arrives in Hatton Garden sealed in glass tubes, which are contained in inch-thick lead tubes for protective purposes. Each tube contains from 70 to 100 milligrams of radium element. It is cut with a glass-knife or file, and then opened under water.

For the treatment of cancer, needles containing radium are buried in the growth and are left in position for as many hours as the medical man deems necessary.

OXFORD V. CAMBRIDGE — THE 91st BOAT RACE

By Colin Henry



A view of the Oxford v. Cambridge Race.

On April 1st, 1938, the ninety-first boat race between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge will be rowed on the River Thames.

The annual Boat Race between Oxford and Cambridge attracts more attention and publicity than any other British sporting event except perhaps that classic horse-race, the Derby. And this is in spite of the fact that very few of the vast crowds who flock to the banks of the Thames for the race every year have attended either of the competing Universities, and an even smaller number know anything about rowing.

But the Londoner — and indeed the Englishman all over the world — loves a sporting contest. It is not the technicalities which appeal to him but the sheer drama of two finely-matched, highly-trained crews racing past the cheering crowds on London's River.

The first Boat Race between Oxford and Cambridge took place 110 ago, in 1829. The University authorities refused permission to the crews to absent themselves for such a purpose. However, the two "eights" and a few supporters slipped away in coaches to Henley-on-Thames, rowed the race (which was won by Oxford), and galloped back without being detected in this breach of the rules.

Since that famous first occasion the Race has been rowed ninety times. Oxford has won forty-two times, Cambridge forty-seven. In 1877 there was actually a dead-heat — a miraculous happening when one considers that the course is four and a quarter miles long.

There have been several long runs of successes, the most recent being also the longest. Cambridge won the race every year from 1924 to 1936 — thirteen times in succession. Oxford, having almost given up hope of ever winning again, having almost succumbed to the stupid accusation of "decadence" from the older members of London's older clubs, won handsomely in 1937 by three lengths, repeated their success last year, and have high hopes of doing so again this year. But with two such closely matched crews, prophecy is impossible.

Before the race, the captains toss a coin to decide their respective stations. Which side of the river the winner of the toss will choose, depends greatly upon the prevailing wind. Since the course includes two great bends of almost 180 degrees, one to the north and one to the south, the wind, if it remains constant, will favour first one side and then the other. The hazards of the choice are well shown by the fact that for the last two years Oxford lost the toss, Cambridge chose the south or Surrey side, but Oxford won.

There is great controversy as to which is the correct side to

choose. Some people hold that the north or Middlesex side should always be chosen since it enables a strong crew to hold its rivals at the beginning of the race where the curve of the river favours the Surrey side, and to make a spurt home during the second half of the race when they are on the inside of the second curve.

The curves in the course have a particular disadvantage from the point of view of the spectator, since they prevent him from really being able to tell whether the crew which appears to be ahead is in fact winning the race. This, however, does not cause any abatement in the vociferous enthusiasm of the crowds, which line the whole of the 4½-mile-long course (6.8 kilometres) and continuous cheering follows the crews for the whole 20 minutes of the race.

Whichever crew wins on April 1st there is one man who is certain to be satisfied and this is Mr. George Sims, whose firm builds the boats for both Universities. Mr. Sims' grandfather built the boat which was used by Cambridge for the race in 1899 and which broke a long series of wins by Oxford. The racing "shells" are built bottom up. They take ten days and cost about £120. The outer "skin" is made of Honduras cedar-wood and is about one-eighth of an inch (3 millimetres) thick — hence the strict rule that no member of the crew may put his feet on any part of the boat but the keel or the foot-rest. Both boats are 62 ft. 6 ins. (about 20 metres) long, and they weigh about 230 lbs. (127 kilograms).

The Oxford boat this year has one unusual feature — a special seat for the cox, who is so small — he weighs only 5 stone (31 kilos) — that his feet will be on the ordinary cox's seat. This diminutive "blue" (as members of the crew are called) is a son of Mr. Vincent Massey, Canada's High Commissioner in London.

Both boats are now ready for the great contest, the crews are training on the Thames, and all along the river the owners of barges are preparing to extend hospitality to the innumerable people who want "river-side seats". Prominent among these is, of course, Mr. A. P. Herbert, who manages to be at the same time wit, poet, social reformer, and Member of Parliament for Oxford University. He is a great lover of the River, and spends as much of his time as he can on his barge at Hammersmith. This barge by its dark blue colour clearly displays his allegiance and is at present being prepared for the great day.

Hawkers in the streets are already selling their light blue favours (for Cambridge) and the dark blue one (for Oxford) which are worn by thousands of staunch

BOOKS

THE RABBIT KING OF RUSSIA

by R. O. G. Urch.

Mr. R. O. G. URCH has been living in Russia or on its borders for the last thirty years, and for sixteen of these he has been in charge of the *Times* service for Russia and the Baltic States. During this period he has gathered an enormous amount of invaluable material about the various phases of Soviet development. Apart from his articles in *"The Times"* he is well known as a writer, and his book "We generally shoot Englishmen", had considerable success a year or two ago.

THE RABBIT KING OF RUSSIA is, in all essentials, a true story. The names of some of the persons are changed, but others, including such well-known figures as Lenin's wife Krupskaya (of whom a very sympathetic portrait is given) appear without disguise. Comedy as well as tragedy flourishes among the luxuriant inventions of Soviet economics, and it is this element which is predominant in "The Rabbit King of Russia".

The chief difficulties of Soviet Russia, as the author says in his preface, arise from the persistent attempts to do ordinary things by extraordinary means. If a plan is large, new and startling, it is always adopted; however bizarre. There was the plan to produce motor oil from Russia's millions of locusts; the plan to round up the bugs and beetles to form a State Beetle-soap industry, etc. Among all these schemes lived and moved Grigori Antonovich Philipoff, unofficially known as the Rabbit King of Russia. For twenty years he moved up and down in official favour, sometimes in gaol, sometimes given a free hand for his exploits, audacious, irrepressible and entertaining, assisted by his two wives, Mirdza and Sonia. Among the well-known episodes of recent Russian history incorporated in the story is the trial of the foreign engineers for sabotage, the attacks on the Orthodox Church, the communism and methods of the "Ransom Bureau" of the G. P. U., etc.

This is a book which tells us what the average man has always wanted to know, how everyday life is pursued in the Soviet Union.

PUBLISHED by Eyre and Spottiswoode, price 7/- obtainable through any good bookseller.

ART EXHIBITIONS

At the IPS (Krolewska 13) Wacław Wasowicz is showing a large collection of his works starting with some painted in 1917 and continuing up to the present moment. The show of this very capable and interesting artist is well worth more than one visit.

In other rooms hang a number of exhibits sent by the Professional Union of Painters, all of which are concerned with figure composition.

Also on view are the sketches on sporting subjects entered for a recent competition in which the two first prizes were awarded to Henryk Siedlanski for his "Runners" and to Jerzy Zielinski for his "Football". The second prize was won by Mrs. Lunkiewiczowa with her "Swimming Competitions".

* * *

At the "Zacheta" (Plac Małachowskiego) there are shows of works by Stanisław Zawadzki, Maria Rogowska, S. Domaradzki, A. Styka and St. Zukowski. Also a collection of works by artists belonging to the Society "Pro Arte" and an exhibition "Polish Saints in Art".

C. H.

supporters. There are thousands more who do not care at all which side wins, but who look forward to April 1st because they know that they will see a magnificent contest in the best tradition of British sportmanship.

Oxford's Ghost Stories

Oriel Street of Oxford. Oriel College, founded in 1324 on the right. In the distance St. Mary's University Church.



The visitor to Oxford need have no fear that Oxford will prove a disappointment in the matter of ghosts. The venerable city, with its ancient colleges and churches, its centuries-old houses and narrow lanes that recall the middle ages, is indeed a happy hunting ground — or should one say haunting ground? — for spectres of every size and shape, sort and condition. Of many of these there are interesting, sometimes amusing, histories.

There is, for example, the sad tale of Duns Scotus, the eminent member of Merton, who hundreds of years ago, was accused of heresy. His punishment was to write out the whole of the New Testament in Merton Library, fasting until he had finished. The unhappy man fell dead from exhaustion as he wrote the last word! If you go into the library at midnight, it is said, you can hear the restless march of his feet across the floor.

Then there is the ghost of Bishop Juxon, the man who attended King

Charles the First on the scaffold. He haunts the Library at St. John's College. He can be seen only from the knees upwards, because the library has been refloored and the Bishop walks on the old floor!

One of Oxford's "creepy" stories tells of a memorable and terrifying meeting of the 18th century Hellfire Club in Brasenose College, when the vice-president called upon the president — Beelzebub himself — to take the chair! No sooner invited, declares the legend, than the Devil appeared. Crazy with fear, the tipsy students poured from the room, leaving their vice-president dead beneath the table. The Devil made his exit into Brasenose Lane through a hole in the wall. For days workmen tried to fill up that hole, but their bricks and mortar merely crumbled away. Eventually it occurred to a wily Fellow of the College to place a Bible in the gap, and repairs could proceed.

These are just a few of Oxford's ghost stories. There are many more.

Anthony Steven

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN POLAND DURING 1938

According to the Polish Economic Research Institute, industrial production in Poland increased last year by 7.9 per cent. Apart from Germany, Poland was last year the only larger country where a rise of such production was recorded as against an almost general decline which was in Belgium as high as 23 per cent and in the U.S.A. 22 per cent. This favourable development in Poland was chiefly due to large public works which was more than compensated for the decline in housing activities. At the same time, machine investments in industries and communications rose by 32, and in agriculture by 16 per cent. The increase in consumption was moderate but quite distinct, especially with the urban population. The accumulation of money capital continued in spite of disturbances by political events on two occasions. The increase in deposits during the year was 100 million zlotys, 92 million with the savings banks, and 85 with joint-stock and private banks, while deposits with State banks decreased by 77 million zlotys. Treasury funds deposited in 1937 being mobilized for public works. A great part of that money found its way into the joint-stock and private banks, increasing their ability to grant credits. The liquidity of the money market reacted favourably on the securities market; bond quotations rose on the average by 20 per cent, and share quotations by 36 per cent. State revenue increased by 7 per cent, the yield of the income and industrial taxes rising by 18 per cent, and that of indirect taxes by 8, and that of the State monopolies by 9 per cent. The increase of State expenditure was less than 7 per cent.

An interesting art exhibition is now being held at Zodiac Cafe Traugutta street, of the etchings by S-Mrożewski and the caricatures by the well-known caricaturist George Zaruba. These include such men in the public eye as Beck, Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin and Chamberlain!



WARSAW STAGE

"The Importance of being Earnest"

The revival of this admirable comedy by Oscar Wilde is always greeted by the public with great satisfaction. Warsaw, especially, understands the exquisite humour and scenic art of Oscar Wilde. *The Importance of being Earnest* has, therefore, a splendid tradition on our stage and the last time when it was produced in 1929, at the *Teatr Narodowy*, it was staged by the famous Juliusz Osterwa, who took the part of Algernon Moncrieff.

The new production of the *Teatr Maty* continues that tradition. The comedy is presented in sets and costumes of Wilde's epoch, thus adding to it something of classical aspect. The stage-direction, by Zbigniew Ziembinski, underlined all the brilliance of Wilde's humour and finesse. Ziembinski, at the same time, is successful as John Worthing, making this comic figure live the expressiveness and elegance of a real lord.

One of our greatest actresses, Maria Przybylko - Potocka delivered brilliantly the lines of Lady Bracknell. Zofia Nakoneczna, as her daughter, the Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax, well represented the snobbish qualities of the young aristocrat, while Wojciech Wojecki radiated with delicate charm and elegance, so indispensable in the rôle of Algernon Moncrieff, which must be counted among his best creations. Miss Alma Halska appeared as Miss Prism and showed first rate qualities as a character actress, treating her task with discretion and artistry. She found a satisfactory partner in Stanislaw Grofiecki, giving a capital burlesque in his portrayal of Chasuble. Finally, Lidia Wysocka was charmingly youthful, as Cecily Cardew.

The effective sets and colourful costumes by Zofia Wiegierko form an artistic frame.

MISS JULIET

The *Teatr Narodowy* gave on March, 26, a very attractive matinée, presenting *Miss Juliet*, a one-act tragedy by A. Sanderhoff, a new artist. The play, a new success for Miss Eicher, who impressed the audience by her unusually truthful and moving picture of the heroine's change from a capricious young girl into a woman, tragically experienced in life and fate.

The play was directed by Erwin Axer. The remaining roles were filled by such competent actors, as Zofia Malyniec and Stefan Hnydzielski.

THE MALICKA THEATRE

The *Malicka Theatre* has brought back the best of its repertory after a year, a popular comedy by George Rymer - *Riche En An Enamored Wife*. This well-drawn scenic story of a wife, who tortures her husband with such a foolish love, that he finally advises her to let him go, deserves the leading roles with humour, wit and tenderness. Unfortunately, Maria Malicka and Karol Benda do not correspond with the demanded qualities. Both of them are rather amateurish and amateurishness is therefore not very surprising. Miss Malicka, in addition is rather amiable in appearance and not at all an ardent and passionate woman, while neither the appearance nor the character of Karol Benda justify the malice sneezes in his bachelor past or in his marriage.

The comedy is badly cast and has no interest for the modern theatre-goer. Our regret is the greater, as we have seen Maria Malicka some years ago in *Maria Malicka*, Essner's play, that Miss Malicka wastes her unique talent on her own stage in presenting bad plays or appearing with inexperienced or provincial actors.

K. M.

ELISABETH, WOMAN WITHOUT MEN

The *Teatr Fama* has given the first night of an interesting new French play, by Andre Jasset, *Elisabeth, Woman without Men* (*Elisabeth, femme sans hommes*). The original treatment of Queen Elisabeth's fate and of her romance with Robert Esseus, by Jasset's drama is one of the most attractive scenic plays, included in the repertoire of the modern stage. A more comprehensive review will appear in our next issue.

JERZY MACIERAKOWSKI

THE ANGLO-POLISH SOCIETY - TOWARZYSTWO POLSKO-ANGIELSKIE

Telephone 9-87-94 - Warszawa - Al. Ujazdowska 38/1

Programme for April 1939:

Saturday 1st - Lecture by Mr. P. Harris on "Adult Education in America" at the Club at 6 p.m.
 Saturday 8th - The Club will be at home from 5 to 7 p.m. Charge for tea and cakes 1 pl. Please come and bring your friends.
 Tuesday 18th - Lecture by Dr. A. Flisowski, from Gdynia Anglo-Polish Society on Ipswich, and the Charities of the Club at 9 p.m.
 Every Wednesday - Reading Evening at the Club from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m.
 Every Friday - Film Show at the Club from 9 to 10 p.m.

The Club is arranging with the L. O. P. P. for a series of lectures in English for non-Polish members on Air Raid Precautions and First Aid Work, to begin about the 15th April. Those who would like to take this course may request their names to the Secretary. The Course will also be open to non-members. A large supply of recent English books has been received by the Library.

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CONCERT IN WARSAW

The most satisfactory of the concerts during the last two weeks in Warsaw was the Symphony concert conducted by the Romanian Georges Georgescu, when the 1st Symphony of Brahms in C. Major sounded with great impression under the direction of the skilled conductor. The soloist also, Franco Ellerberg, acquitted herself excellently in the Beethoven C. Minor Concerto. Her playing has charm and directness. And when the encore was given, the orchestra was quite delighted.

Owing to the air attack practice the orchestral concert on the 24th March was badly attended, nor was the programme particularly attractive. The soloist for the present concert did not give a charming and violin concert at which the performers were Irene Dubinska (violin) and Schle Michel (clarinet). Both are good and serious artists but the two instruments did not blend well and the result was colorless and wearisome.

The Society of young Polish musicians gave a performance at the YMCA in which two young students of the Conservatoire had the opportunity of showing their talents.

The orchestra pieces chosen by Beethoven's V. Symphony and an orchestral piece of Mussorgski's. Both aspirants showed talent and good training.

K. M.

A Merited Recognition

Captain R. H. Walley, R. D. R. N. R., the popular commander of the "Baltrouven", was present at a Levee at the Buckingham Palace on the 7th March and was presented to H. M. the King.

All those who have known and admired him for years will note with pleasure this recognition of his services.

BRITISH PASSPORT CONTROL OFFICE

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The following persons are entitled to receive visas or immigration certificates for Palestine

Nº 132/33/34

No. of certificate	NAME	Age	Category	Last date of visa	Admission to Palestine	Duration of stay	Address
113770	BERGMANN Chilli	19	B/3	23.3.39	31.3.39	c/o Zientor	Palestine office Warsaw
113855	RAPOORT Sara	26	D	"	"	27	Limanowskiego, Zgierz
113859	WELNER Szmul	3	D	"	"	22	ul. Traugutta, Zelechow
"	" Ester	14	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Szlama	12	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Bronka	7	D	"	"	"	"
113861	LOHEL Paulina	50	B/3	"	"	11	Rynek Glowny, Krakow
"	" Lester	17	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Gela	14	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Elias	13	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Debra	9	D	"	"	"	"
113869	FRIEDE Cilly	20	B/3	"	"	"	Palestine Office, Warsaw
113870	KOCHEN Adela	21	B/3	"	"	"	"
113884	KOCHEN Rosa	19	B/3	"	"	"	"
113885	STORCH Mietta	18	B/3	"	"	"	"
113886	GLIRITMAN Hanna	17	B/3	"	"	21	Śniadeckich, Warsaw
113890	WAJNTRAB Bernard	13	D	"	"	1/2	Bialostocka, Bialystok
113892	HALOSTOCKI Rachiel	47	D	"	"	4/2	Wardzka, Warsaw
113893	ROSENBAUM Ida	20	B/3	"	"	1/2	c/o Palestine Office, Warsaw
113941	KESSLER Leib	18	B/3	"	"	"	Borsztyn
113920	FISCHER Yechiel	27	B/3	"	"	1/2	c/o Palestine Office, Warsaw
117704	BELLER Aron	27	B/3	"	"	1/2	Stanislawow, Pierackiego 76
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118043	KORN Rafael	60	D	23.3.39	31.3.39	Zbąszyń	
"	" Itta	63	D	"	"	"	"
(Original immigration certificate of Korn at this office)							
2419	195 KURCMAN Fania	38	G	"	2.3.40	84	c/o P.S. street 24, Piaski
2419	197 LIWER Ida	36	H	"	27.3.39	51	Mala Chwilińska 33, Biedzin
2419	" Irena	11	D	"	"	"	"
2419	199 HEMFTMA Mataci	26	H	"	1.8.39	10	Bogatka, Warsaw
2419	198 CHELMER Simche	45	G	"	31.5.39	14	Koprowska 10, Zwolen
2419	199 HERZSPING Ester	47	G	"	31.12.39	1	Pilsudskiego 1, Zduńska Wola
2419	194 FUCHS Abraham	30	G	"	31.3.39	Skole, Kolo Stryja	
2418	132 KORMA Ieek	20	G	"	28.3.39	7	Żeromskiego 7, Radom
2418	132 CZESŁAW Lipsz	31	G	"	20.4.39	14	u. 14. Bialej 14 u. 14. P. Loska Bialystok
2418	" BABIJ Kalman	—	G	"	30.4.39	Radziechow	
2418	" SCHLICH Birsch	—	G	"	30.4.39	Miodowa, 18, Krakow	
2418	" GLERZBERM Mordach	—	G	"	11.5.39	Piastowskiego 53, Piasek	
2419	198 PERCHODNIK Pejsach	26	G	"	30.4.39	10, Koscielska, Otwock	
2419	199 SZEWACHOWSKA Zenica	26	G	"	25.4.39	1/2, Fura 18	
2419	199 LIPPSZYC Izak	21	G	"	30.4.39	Brigadzka 9, Grodno	
2421	SCHARF Mendel	64	A/1	23.3.39	31.3.39	Lwów	
"	" Amalia	55	D	"	"	"	"
2424	DAWID Eichenbaum & wife	61	A/1	"	"	Warsaw	
112919	FRIDMAN Man	73	D	"	"	Odrzywóz	
112919	SPORN Leib	54	D	"	"	"	"
112919	BLATT Jakob	59	D	"	"	c/o Palestine Office, Warsaw	
"	" Sula	57	D	"	"	Szumsk, Wolyn Distr.	
1138101	FRIDJEDMAN Mendel	56	D	"	"	"	"
116102	WAGNER Moshe	61	D	"	"	"	"
116102	" ZIMBERG Leib	26	G	"	30.3.39	Staszow	
116102	" REINSTEIN Rieka	38	G	"	31.5.39	75/4 Zelazna, Warsaw	
2419	112 BERGER Golda	63	G	"	31.12.39	5 Trębacka, Warsaw	
2419	111 MLYNEK Minka	29	H	"	6.9.39	St. Jerska 34, Warsaw	
2419	110 FRYDMAN Berla	26	G	"	30.9.39	c/o U. Kroika, Wilejska Powiatowa	
2419	1105 DYKIERMAN Chaja	22	G	"	31.3.34	Jedrzejow	
2419	1106 ROZANSKI Isak	43	H	"	13.9.39	26/1 Pilsudskiego, Wilno	
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113946	WARSZE Sara	59	D	31.3.39	30.4.39	Antopol Kobryń Dist.	
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"	" Ezra	15	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Saloma	14	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Vito	10	D	"	"	"	"
113952	MOSZKOWICZ Alka	32	D	31.3.39	30.4.39	12 Szeroka, Lublin	
"	" Lechek	2	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Abraham	1	D	"	"	"	"
113951	TENENBAUM Golda	61	D	31.3.39	30.4.39	8 Handlowa, Tomaśow Maz.	
113951	" Ilka	11	D	31.3.39	30.4.39	c/o Palestine Office, Warsaw	
F.2419	111 MOJN Roza	—	H	"	16.8.39	ul. Supraselska 3, Bialystok	
F.2419	110 DANCYGER Chaja	67	G	"	30.6.39	ul. Rybnik 1, Biedzino	
2419	1109 DAWIDOWICZ Mendel	41	G	"	31.5.39	Podrzecza 14, Łódź	
2419	f. 108 CUKIERMAN Samson	26	G	"	24.6.39	c/o Energia, 13, Małachowskiego, Biedzin	
2419	f. 107 GLASS Lazar	38	G	"	31.7.39	Tarnopol	
"	" Sraul	34	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Ewa	8	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Cecylia	4	D	"	"	"	"
2419	f. 120 PIOTROWSKI Simeon	45	G	"	17.9.39	Cieglelniana 19, Łódź	
"	" Bluma	39	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Moyshe	12	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Fruma	10	D	"	"	"	"
"	" Esther	8	D	"	"	"	"
2419	112 GOLDBERG Chaja	37	H	"	18.3.40	Pohulanka 19 m. 9, Wilno	
2419	113 GROSENBERG Rebeka	57	G	"	19.3.39	Piernicka 3, Chorzanow	
2419	114 WILCZYK Szczęska	34	H	"	30.4.39	ul. Alberta 4, Warsaw	
2419	f. 132 GILBERT Jozsa	44	G	"	30.4.39	36/B Cieglelniana, Łódź	
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113956	KON Aleksander	41	D	"	"	"	"

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